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UNCLAS PRAGUE 000115

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/NCE
FSI FOR LISA FOX, GARY MAYBARDUK AND KEISHA BELL

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF PRAGUE EMBASSY FSN ANDELA KUNSTOVA
FOR FSI ECONOMICS TRAINING COURSE PE 220

REF: FSINFATC 73

I1. Post nominates Andela Kunstova, FSN Economic Specialist,
for FSI course scheduled for May 2-13, 2005.

IA. Andela Kunstova, Grade 10
IB. Born June 19, 1944
IC. Nationality: Czech
ID. Passport No. 35476364
IE. State - Embassy Prague Political-Economic Section
IF. Position Title: Economic Specialist
IG. Supervisor: Robert Kiene, e-mail kienerr2@state.gov

IH. Ms. Kunstova has a master's degree from Charles University in Prague, and has been Embassy's economic assistant and expert on the local economy since 1990. She has a wealth of contacts and experience locally in Prague that have served the Embassy well. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to the Embassy and the USG and to her professional development. She has followed trade and economic developments in the Czech Republic for 14 years. She prepares drafts of important reports, and has a particular interest in intellectual property protection. Through her contacts with NGO's and government officials she has contributed greatly to the Embassy's successful effort to urge improvement of the Czech Republic's performance in this area.

II. Since the Czech Republic's accession to the European Union in May 2004, and even before, European Union trade and investment policies have had significant impact on the U.S. relationship with the Czech Republic. One of post's key strategies for achieving its goal of increased trade and investment with the Czech Republic is convincing the GOCR to play a more active role within the EU on issues of importance to the USG. Prague's economic section now counts only one economic officer and one FSN economic assistant, Ms. Kunstova. Therefore, training enhancing Ms. Kunstova's skills and knowledge of how decisions are made in the EU and how best to influence them is particularly valuable. She needs a better understanding of current and future U.S.-EU issues as well as ways to enhance cooperation in problematic areas of the transatlantic relationship.

IJ. All the topics for PE 220 suggested reftel would be useful, but given the span of two weeks only to cover them, the post would place emphasis on the following areas:

- (1) Understanding of US decision-making, including both formal branches of government and informal determinates of policy.
- (3) What kinds of reporting Washington wants from EU posts.
- (4) Understanding EU decision-making, including EU institutions, special interest groups, the media.
- (11) Structural and cohesion funds.
- (15) Sources of data and information.
- (16) All the key bilateral US/EU issues mentioned.

I2. The amount of time scheduled for individual consultations, two half-days in Washington and one half-day in Brussels, is adequate.

CABANISS